



71st World Health Assembly

11.6 Global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property

May 2018

Honourable Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the World Medical Association, which represents more than 9 million physicians around the world.

We welcome WHO report and take note of the recommendations made by the review panel for priority actions between 2018 and 2022.

Access to modern medicine can contribute to mitigating some of the health inequities and facilitate progress towards Universal Health Coverage. As health professionals, we therefore support the opening to newer essential health products, encompassing medicines, vaccines, diagnostics or biologicals. This requires however harmonized and accurate intellectual property regulations as well as sustainable and transparent sources of funding., We regret that adequate prioritization of action on R&D priorities and development of innovative funding mechanisms are still missing.

We support the WHO in its leadership on health-related intellectual property issues and its role in facilitating the efforts of member states to promote Universal Health Coverage. In a globalized economy, national and international intellectual property regulations should always serve the people on a global scale and not put some in disadvantage against the others as it currently is the case.

Thank you